

of the base to move out of the county when the base ceased operations. Reactivation in 1956 of Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base caused a large immigration of new people into the county. This, coupled with a large natural increase, was responsible for the 27.7 percent increase in total population for 1960.

Education

The educational attainment of Wayne County's citizens is of vital importance to its future economic growth and development. The level of education is the most important characteristic when related to an individual's earnings. The better educated people can and do command higher wages. In return, employers expect to receive higher performance levels and increased production. Jobs for the uneducated and unskilled laborers are decreasing throughout the State, while the demand for skilled, and to a lesser degree, the semi-skilled labor has increased rapidly. This trend will not decrease but should increase in the remaining years of this century.

Table 5 gives the number and percent of school years completed for all persons 25 years and over in 1960 as well as the median school years completed. The most encouraging aspects of this table are that the total number of people with no years of education completed in Wayne County has decreased more rapidly than the State average. While 2.5 percent of all people in Wayne County have not completed any school years, 3.1 percent of the State's total population has completed no school years. In 1950 the State fared much better than Wayne County when only 3.7 percent compared with 5.6 percent, had completed no school years.

This table also shows that the number of people in Wayne County who have completed from 1 to 4 years of college is increasing slightly. In 1950 the white people in this category comprised 14.8 percent of the total white population. By 1960, this percentage had risen only to 15.8 percent. By contrast, the nonwhites with at least one year of college